

Celebrating 41 yrs  
of ministry!

# Young People Who Care, Inc. Newsletter

www.ypweministries.org



God is  
Spoken  
of Here.

## Life Line ~ Infant & Pregnancy Ministry



Nikki Collins

Has been serving clients of Clearfield and surrounding counties since 1986. Life Line provides assistance to pregnant woman, biological parents and legal guardians of children under the age of 2. Life Line provides free and confidential pregnancy testing, supportive counseling, educational materials, and various maternity/baby items including clothing, furniture, and accessories. Life Line also provides emergency supplies of diapers, formula, and baby food.

Life Line supports and affirms the dignity and sacredness of each human life from the moment of conception to natural death. Therefore, Life Line aims to meet the needs of a developing baby (in and out of the womb) by providing the material goods and educational training to pregnant women, parents, and guardians that are necessary for a healthy beginning. We recognize that not all individuals are able to afford these types of services and therefore we offer them to our community free of cost through the generosity of our benefactors and donated items.

### LIFE LINE SUCCESS STORY!

One day, Elizabeth had come to the office. She was new to the country and she was also pregnant to a man that she was not involved with. She did not have a job and she was staying with a friend she had met that was willing to let her stay with him. At first, Elizabeth was somewhat difficult to work with. She spoke louder than most clients and was difficult to get a fair word in with. But with time, she took a liking to me (Nikki) as her counselor, and had become responsive to some of the information that I had to share with her.

Elizabeth is still a client at Life Line, and she is doing great! The baby is here and is well taken care of and thriving. Elizabeth has a part time job as a home health aid, even though she feels like she is capable of working full-time (and would like to be working full-time.) She also plans to take advantage of her company's furthering education offer. A special characteristic of Elizabeth is not only does she return all the baby items she receives from the office, she returns them in better condition than she received them and she donates more!

Elizabeth is a really great advocate for Life Line. She always reminds me how she tells the "girls" in her unique type of tone, *"Now if you're in need, there is this wonderful place called Life Line, Aye? Go use the services! That's what they are meant for. But, don't just use the services, give back! So the next mum (mom) can receive the same help that you received. And make sure you clean up the things you send. That's only kind to the next mum (mom), Aye?"*

I'm glad we were able to help get Elizabeth back on her feet, and help give her baby a better start. I am also happy that Elizabeth appreciates our services and lets other woman in her situation know that there is a place to go where, "The people will treat them real nice." (Nikki Collins ~ Life Line Director)

As of September 30th the Clearfield office has served 118 clients over 175 client visits. Of those 118 clients, **72 of them were new to our services!**

Life Line **welcomes volunteers** to sort donated items or assist clients through counseling. Volunteer hours are flexible. For more information, please call Nikki Collins at 765-3225 during business hours: Monday-Friday, 10 am-4 pm. Located at 416 Arnold Ave. Clearfield, PA 16830



**Volunteers:** Joanne Fitzmaurice, Mary Ann Larimer, & Debby Blessel help to sort clothing and organize the racks.

### Items Needed:

Currently Life Line is in need of the following items:

- ◆ Boy/Girl —Fall/Winter Sizes: 6-9m, 18m & 24 m/2T Sleepers
- ◆ Baby Proofing Items (Outlet Covers/Cabinet Locks/Door Knob)
- ◆ Baby Gates & Infant Finger Toothbrushes
- ◆ Unopened Diapers, Pack-n-plays, High Chairs, Baby Monitors, etc.
- ◆ **Similac Pro Formulas** Advanced, Sensitive, Gentlease, Alimentum, or Soy
- ◆ Monetary Donations are always welcomed.



## Bethany Retreat Center



has truly been blest this past year with a variety of wonderful retreats, beautiful grounds and delicious home cooked meals. Over the past 10 months Bethany has been a spiritual home to over 300 people from all walks of life and Christian faiths. Some of the retreats offered this year have been one to 3 day personal renewal retreats, Monthly Open Studio/Art Retreat Days, Women Retreats, Native American Drumming, Contemplative and Ignation Directed Eight Day Silent Retreats. Also, many individual groups and parishes have had their own retreats at Bethany throughout the year.



*"This is my spiritual home ~ I sink into the silence and peace and feel renewed."*

### Upcoming Retreats:

Personal Days of Renewal a day/overnight(s): November 6-10th  
Advent Contemplative Prayer Retreat: December 1-3rd  
Holy Week Triduum: March 29 ~ April 1, 2018  
[www.bethanyretreatcenter.org](http://www.bethanyretreatcenter.org) or [bethanyretreatcenter@gmail.com](mailto:bethanyretreatcenter@gmail.com)



### **Anawim Community Members**

**Sr. Karen** celebrated her 25<sup>th</sup> Jubilee in the Anawim Community September 2017! There was a special Mass in Erie in June for all Jubilerians which she attended with Sr. Ruth Ann. On Saturday, September 16, the Anawim Associates began the celebration weekend with Mass and dinner for Sr. Karen. On Sunday, there was a Jubilee Mass followed by a wonderful brunch for people in the local area to join the celebration. Then, the celebration moved to Erie where Sr. Karen, Sr. Suzanne, and Sr. Ruth Ann hosted a dinner for many friends and colleagues of Sr. Karen. It was quite the celebration weekend!

Sr. Karen continues to develop her Integrative Medicine Practice alongside the free clinic primary care practice. Her days at the clinic are now filled with many acupuncture patients and prolotherapy injection procedures for anyone (insured or uninsured), and also primary care for those who are uninsured. She continues her global medical mission outreach work with a planned mission trip to Guatemala in late October and back to the Dominican Republic in March of 2018.



*Knee Prolotherapy injection treatment in the Dominican Republic in March 2017*



**Sr. Ruth Ann** is presently in the home stretch of her on-going education with Shalem Institute DC.; she hopes to complete the program by the end of December 2017. The course, Nurturing the Call: Spiritual Guidance Program is both for academic resources as well as an experiential support for the ministry of spiritual direction. She completed her second residency the end of June. This course has also been a wonderful resource for her as she is living at

Bethany and is in full-time ministry doing the spiritual directing at Bethany Retreat Center. Sr. Ruth Ann is looking forward to making her annual retreat at the Ignatius Jesuit Centre in North Guelph in Canada mid-October.

**Sr. Suzanne** is now in her fourth year as Director of Religious Education for the local parishes. The Erie Diocesan Pastoral Planning committee found it beneficial to combine the two religious education programs of the Northern Moshannon Cluster Parishes (Frenchville, Grassflat & Drifting) into one program. She also continues to give retreats throughout the Erie Diocese, as well as, the Altoona/Johnstown Diocese. Read more about her involvement in the Youth Program Ministry on the next page!



### **Anawim Associate Program**

Over twenty Anawim Associates gathered for a retreat day at Bethany Retreat Center on Saturday, September 16, 2017 given by the Anawim Community Sisters. The focus again was on the Beatitudes, with Sr. Suzanne presenting on “Blessed are the peacemakers...”, Sr Karen presenting on “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness...” and Sr. Ruth Ann presenting on “Blessed are the pure of heart...”. The day was filled with opportunities for spiritual growth, community building, personal reflection time, sharing within the group, prayer and Mass in community, and the development of new friendships and connections among the Associates. It was a day of blessings for all involved! Next year’s gatherings will again be in later spring or early summer and in the Fall. Dates are yet to be determined. Visit the Anawim website at [www.anawimcommunity.org](http://www.anawimcommunity.org) in 2018 for details on upcoming Anawim Associate gatherings.

For anyone interested in becoming an Anawim Associate or would like more information, please contact Sr. Karen Willenbring by email at [anawimco@gmail.com](mailto:anawimco@gmail.com) or by phone at 814-263-4518 or visit the Anawim Community website.

### **Rev. Philip Billotte**



Fr. Philip Billotte has been on the retreat staff for over 10 years facilitating retreats, hearing confessions, and is the celebrant for 9:30am Sunday Liturgy at the Bethany Retreat Center. His present ministry is at the Philipsburg Federal Prison where every Wednesday he hears confessions, has Scripture Study, prays the Rosary, and on Sundays he offers Mass for the men at the prison. Fr. Phil is retired and lives next door to

the retreat center on his family homestead. He joins us for daily Mass and Morning/Evening Prayer. We are deeply grateful for his ministry here at Bethany and to those incarcerated.

### **YPWC, Inc. Upcoming Events:**

- \* **Christmas Program** for the families we work with during the year. If you would like to sponsor a family or donate items please call Sr. Suzanne 814-263-4177
- \* **YPWC, Inc. Dinner Dance**  
Saturday, February 17th—*Mark your calendar!*  
**At the Knights of Columbus in Clearfield**

### **Ways to make monetary donations:**

**Mail:** PO Box 129, Frenchville, PA 16836

**Credit Card or to set up monthly donations:**  
[www.ypwcministries.org/donate](http://www.ypwcministries.org/donate)

## YPWC, INC. SERVICE PROGRAM



YPWC strives to meet the needs of people that fall between the cracks of county agencies and other service groups in the area

of Clearfield County. These past nine months have been filled with 10,755 hours of service meeting those needs that have fallen “between the cracks.” YPWC Social Service Coordinator, Charlie Saggese organized more than 200 projects and services.

Projects include major yard work and house cleaning, minor home repairs: roofs, sheds, porches, steps, windows and basements. Families have newly painted exterior and interior homes, nursing home visits and assistance to a family building a

house through Habitat for Humanity, as well as, transportation to hospitals and doctor appointments. YPWC has partnered with at least 6 county agencies to respond to the needs of more than 150 people, including 64 new contacts.

One such project was a 60 foot handicap ramp built for an elderly man who had built his own house from sub-ground and finish turn-key. His wife commented of his desire to join the volunteers in their labor. He did join in the camaraderie and design of the project from his porch. New life and joy was shared by all who



assisted in this endeavor including three local agencies that financially sponsored the project supplies. Since then his son purchased a motorized chair so he has the freedom to enjoy his property outside.



## YPWC, INC. YOUTH PROGRAM

Youth from many parts of the country come to Frenchville to experience Christian Community. Students have travel from as far away as the states of Illinois, Michigan, Indiana and New York, to as close as our backyard here in Frenchville.

YPWC is committed to fostering Christian

Leadership development and creating the space for young people, teens and young adults to develop or enhance their relationship with God.

Sr. Suzanne Thibault, C.A, currently leads 38 local grade school and high school students in their study of the Catholic faith. Hosting classes, as well as, presenting Vacation Bible School in the Youth Center.

Families and students of all grade levels have attended 13 retreats of various topics



**Palm Sunday  
Family Retreat**



including sacramental prep, value clarification, healthy teen relationships, as well as, a Family Palm Sunday/Holy Week retreat. The fall calendar has another 12 retreats scheduled for schools and parishes that have requested our Youth Retreat Team.

**LOCAL VOLUNTEERS** can become active in these ministries:

Transportations, assistance to homebound elderly and families in need, cooking for groups of youth at Youth Center. Call Sr. Suzanne at 263-4177 if interested in giving a helping hand!

**Thank you and Blessings!!**



**Ben Dagher**  
(St. Marys, PA)  
Charlie Saggese,  
**Adrian Fritzke**  
(North East, PA)

**Abby Commarford**  
(Troy, MI)  
Sr. Suzanne,  
**Anna Slowiak**  
(Cary, IL)



To the wonderful college staff members who were the leadership for Summer Service Program 2017, their commitment and generosity have been a blessing to all who met them. Thank You for your time with us!

Visit our **NEW** Youth webpage  
[www.ypwcyouthprogram.com](http://www.ypwcyouthprogram.com)

[bethanyouthcenter@gmail.com](mailto:bethanyouthcenter@gmail.com)